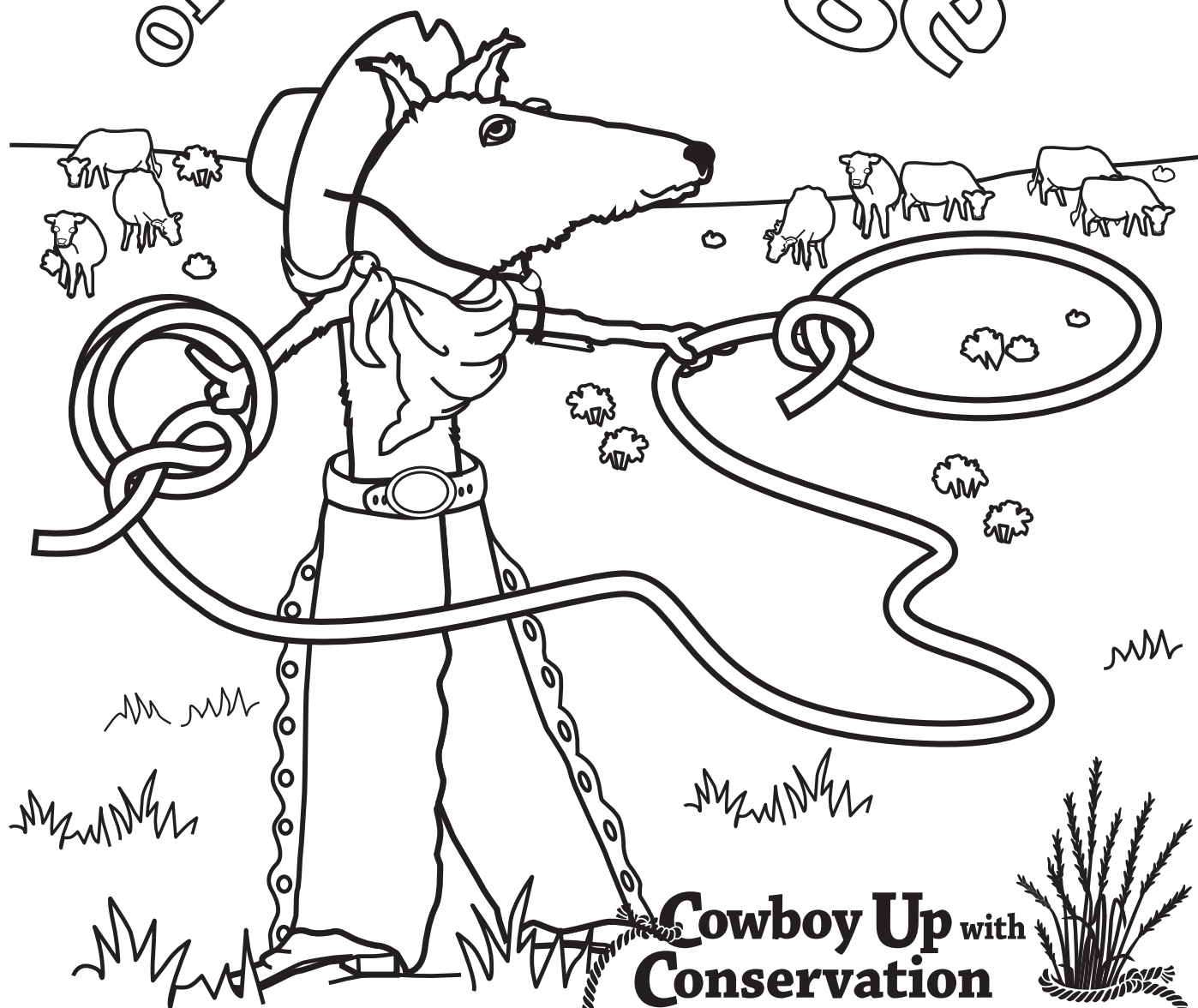
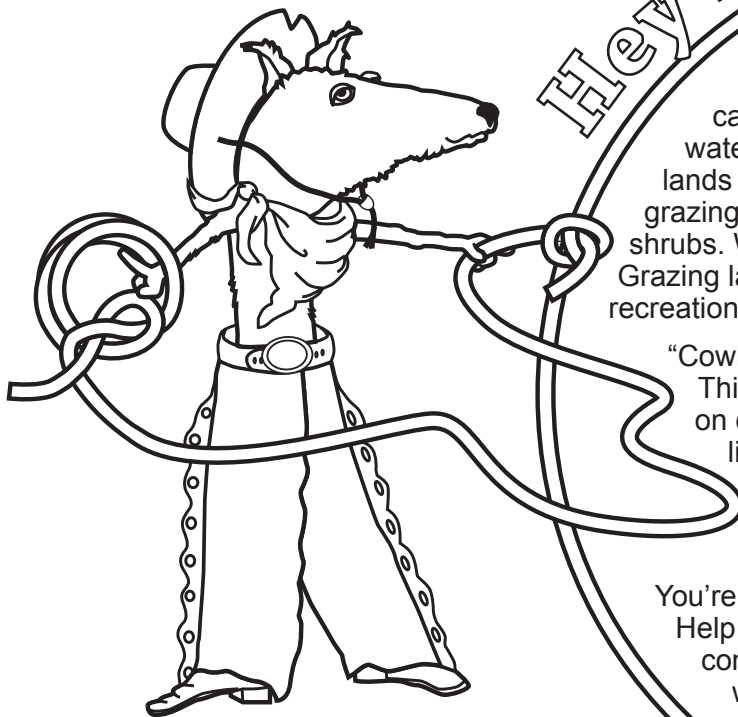


# Cowboy Critters At Work On the Range



**Cowboy Up** with  
**Conservation**  
It can save your grass

# Hey Kids



Montana's ranchers and farmers are conservationists. Conservationists work everyday to take care of the land. They also take care of the water, the soil, the plants and the animals. Grazing lands make up over half of Montana. So what are grazing lands? These lands grow grasses, flowers and shrubs. When livestock eat these plants, they are grazing. Grazing lands give us clean air, clean water, open spaces, recreation and help people make a living.

"Cowboy up with Conservation - It can save your grass!" This is a fun way to excite ranchers and farmers to keep on conserving their grazing lands. We want kids like you, living in town and out in the country to help us, "Cowboy up with Conservation!" The activities on these pages will introduce you to grazing lands and livestock, and what happens on the range!

You're going to have a great time with these activities! Help us spread the word about grazing lands and conservation! And don't forget to "Cowboy up with Conservation" and share this with all your friends!

Happy Trails!

## Reading Brands

Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, outside to inside.

RN

R N Bar

U

Flying U

H

Chair

I

T Lazy H

Can you read these brands?

◇

⤴  
R

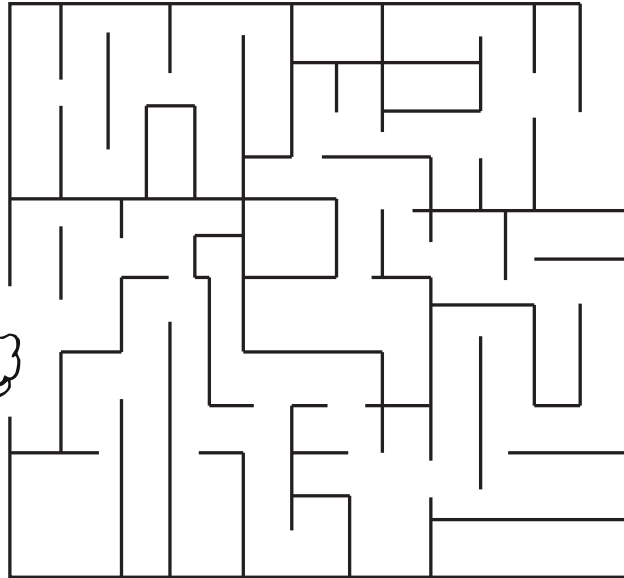
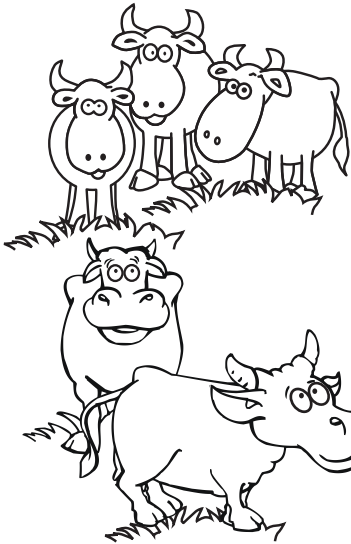
M9

SM

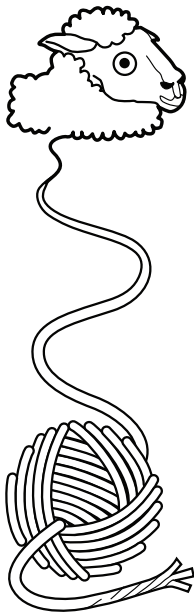
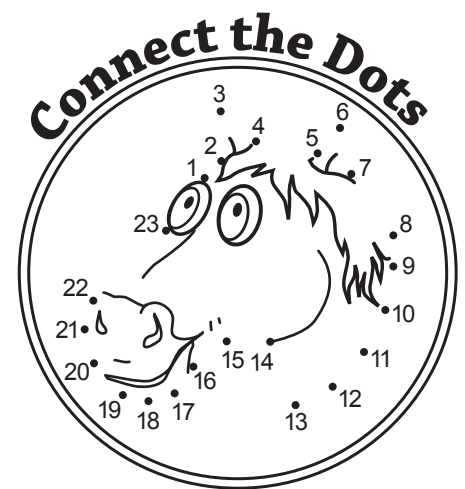
Before calves or lambs are moved to the pasture they are marked with the owner's brand and vaccinated against disease. Brands are the animal's ID (identification), like a driver's license is to a human and a license plate is to a car. Brands act like a return address. If an animal gets out and goes over to a neighbor's place, the neighbor can read the brand and know where to return the animal. Sheep brands are placed on the animal with a special paint. Branding day is a big event on the ranch; family, neighbors, and friends gather to help brand the critters.

Answers (left to right): Diamond Bar, Lazy K over R, M Bar 9, lazy J M.

**Help this rancher move the cattle from pasture to the barn.**



**Sheep can grow fine wool, medium wool, or coarse wool.**



Lambs drink their mother's milk and grow strong. A lamb will be almost grown when it is only six months old. It will weigh between 100 and 110 pounds. Spring is shearing time for sheep. Shearing is like getting a haircut. Their hair is a natural fiber called wool. The wool is removed as one piece and is called fleece. The oil in sheep's wool is called lanolin. It is used to make lotion.

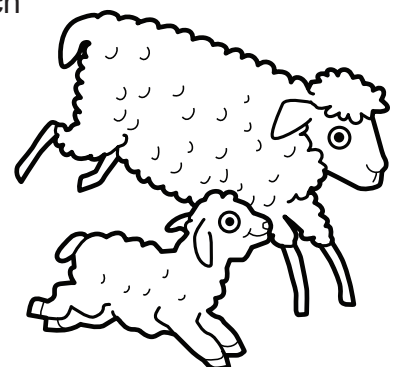
Solve these math problems:

1) One of Woolgrower Wilma's sheep grows a fleece that weighs ten pounds. After the fleece is scoured (washed) to remove the dirt and lanolin (oil), the wool weighs six pounds. How much dirt and lanolin was in the fleece?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds

2) How many pounds of wool would be left after the fleece from two sheep is washed and the oil removed?

\_\_\_\_\_ pounds



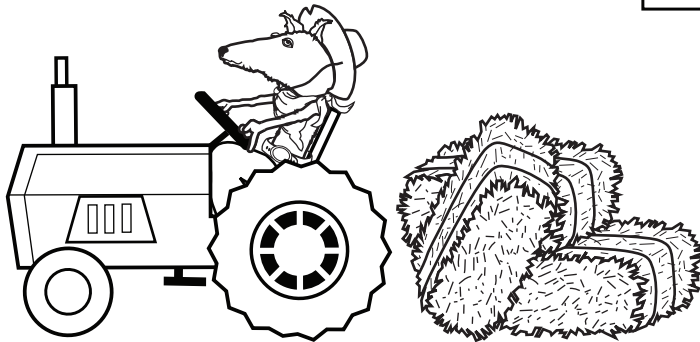
Answers: 1) 4 pounds, 2) 12 pounds.

## Ranch Word Roundup

Ranching is a job. Montana ranchers work hard, but it can be fun too. They work from sunup to sundown caring for their land, their livestock, and their families. Find these ranch words hidden in the box.

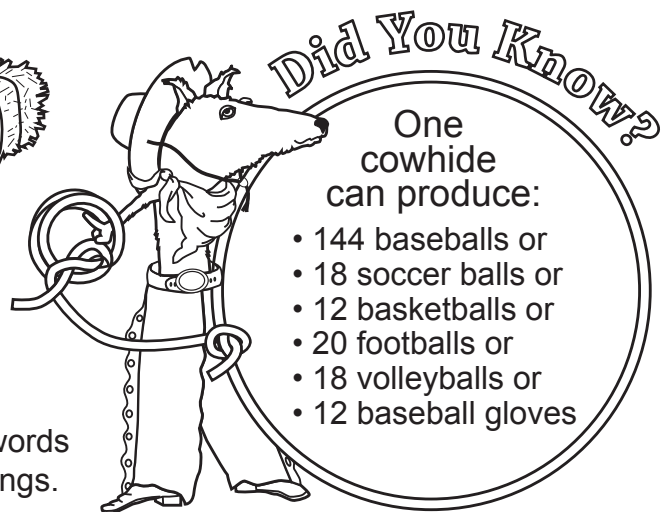
HAYBALE	COWS
BARN	SHEEP
TRACTOR	RANCHER
FENCE	GRASS
HORSE	LAMB
FIELD	BRAND

H	A	Y	B	A	L	E	F	R
O	W	C	L	B	A	R	N	T
R	A	O	A	F	I	E	L	D
S	G	W	M	T	E	V	I	S
E	R	S	B	R	A	N	D	P
R	A	N	C	H	E	R	C	R
T	S	R	S	H	E	E	P	E
S	S	T	R	A	C	T	O	R



## Unscramble the Types of Food and Fiber

Farmers and ranchers provide the rest of the world with food and fiber. Unscramble these words and learn what they produce to make their livings.



WOLO

URGHAMREB

KILM

TKEAS

MTUTON

ECHESE

LRTHEAE

LONIOT

Answers: wool, milk, mutton, leather, hamburger, steaks, cheese, lotion.